

## NPT 1995 REVIEW AND EXTENSION CONFERENCE

Since its entry into force on March 5, 1970, the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) has constituted the cornerstone of the world's non-proliferation system. It provides a political and legal barrier to the legitimization of additional nuclear weapons, the legal foundation for the commerce in nuclear equipment, material and technology, as well as the basic commitments to be verified by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) - Safeguards System. More than 150 States have ratified the NPT since its signature in 1968.

Every five years since 1970, the Parties to the NPT have held a Review Conference in order to review the operation of the NPT with a view to assuring that the purposes of the NPT are being realized.

Pursuant to Article X (2) of the Treaty, a Conference was held in New York from April 17 to May 12, 1995 to determine whether the Treaty should be extended for a fixed period, for fixed periods, or indefinitely.

As a strong supporter of the indefinite extension of the NPT, Canada sponsored the resolution to extend the Treaty indefinitely and was successful in gaining the support of 103 countries as co-sponsors. The resolution to extend the Treaty indefinitely was adopted without a vote.

As a result, the NPT was reinforced by strengthening the review process and reaffirming principles and objectives relative to nuclear non-proliferation, disarmament and safeguarded peaceful use (which call for a comprehensive test ban by 1996 and a systematic program of action toward the ultimate elimination of nuclear weapons).